

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09061 01 OF 02 291853Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /065 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1152

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 09061

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN PRESENTS EC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION;

OREJA-SIMONET PRESS CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY

JULY 28 SPANISH FONMIN OREJA PRESENTED SPAIN'S EC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT SIMONET (BELGIAN FONMIN) FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE COUNCIL. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERWARDS OREJA EMPHASIZED STRENGTH OF SPANISH DOMESTIC POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR EC MEMBERSHIP, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT, AND SAID HE HOPED FOR SPAIN'S TOTAL INTEGRATION INTO THE EC IN 8-9 YEARS. SIMONET WELCOMED SPANISH APPLICATION BUT TOLD PRESS NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE THORNY SINCE COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY STRUCTURAL REFORMS RELATING TO, INTER ALIA, EC INSTITUTIONS AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. SIMONET TRIED TO REASSURE FRANCE AND ITALY THAT ACCESSION TALKS WITH SPAIN AND OTHER APPLICANTS FOR EC MEMBERSHIP, WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 09061 01 OF 02 291853Z

CONDUCTED WITH INTERESTS OF PRESENT MEMBER STATES FULLY IN MIND. END SUMMARY.

2. JULY 27 OREJA MET EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS TO CONVEY SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO APPLY FOR EC MEMBERSHIP. FOLLOWING DAY OREJA HANDED APPLICATION TO BELGIAN FONMIN SIMONET, WHO SPECULATED TO THE

PRESS AFTERWARD THAT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WOULD TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE APPLICATION AT ITS NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 20 AND ASK THE COMMISSION TO PREPARE A FORMAL OPINION. (COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS SUGGESTED TO THE PRESS THAT IT WILL TAKE THE COMMISSION 8-9 MONTHS TO PREPARE THAT OPINION.)

3. SIMONET BEGAN JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH OREJA BY HAILING SPANISH APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF BELGIAN GOVERNMENT (SINCE HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR EC COUNCIL UNTIL APPLICATION COMES BEFORE IT) AS SYMBOLIZING SPAIN'S RE-ENTRY INTO EUROPE: "IT IS A MAJOR HISTORIC EVENT FOR SPAIN AND FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES." HE SAID THAT ACCEPTANCE OF SPANISH APPLICATION BY THE EC WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE COMMUNITY'S BASIC SELF-CONFIDENCE THAT IT CAN "MEET THE CHALLENGES FACED BY SPANISH MEMBERSHIP." AFTER NOTING THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND INDUSTRIAL REFORM, SIMONET SAID SPANISH ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE DIFFICULT AT BEST, AND CAN REACH THE FRUITION DESIRED BY BOTH SIDES ONLY IF ALL THE ISSUES ARE METICULOUSLY INVESTIGATED AND RESOLVED.

4. IN QUESTION PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED, OREJA SAID HE HOPES SUBMISSION OF SPANISH APPLICATION WILL STIMULATE AN EARLY EC-SPAIN DIALOGUE ON THE "CONDITIONS" RELATING TO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 09061 01 OF 02 291853Z

SPANISH MEMBERSHIP. RECOGNIZING THAT A PERIOD OF TRANSITION WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE SPAIN'S TOTAL ABSORPTION INTO THE EC, OREJA SPECULATED THAT THE PROCESS SHOULD BE COMPLETE IN 8-9 YEARS, OR POSSIBLY LESS. HE SAID SPAIN DID NOT WANT A "PRE-ACCESSION" PERIOD--I.E., A PERIOD BETWEEN THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND FORMAL ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY. WHILE OREJA DID NOT TOTALLY RULE OUT SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN EC MEMBER STATES' POLITICAL COOPERATION PRIOR TO SPANISH ACCESSION, HE SEEMED TO CONSIDER THE PROSPECT UNLIKELY. OREJA NOTED THAT SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE THERE WOULD BE A CORTES DEBATE ON THE CONDUCT OF ACCESSION TALKS WITH THE EC, BUT SAID THAT THE GOAL OF MEMBERSHIP IS NOT ITSELF IN QUESTION, SINCE "ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES AGREE."

5. OREJA SAID SPAIN WISHES TO JOIN THE EC BECAUSE IT IS IN SPAIN'S ECONOMIC INTEREST, AND, AS IMPORTANTLY, BECAUSE SPAIN SHARES "A FULL IDENTITY OF VIEWS" WITH THE EC'S FOUNDING FATHERS, WHO HAD THE VISION AND GOAL OF ULTIMATE EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNITY: "SPAIN DOES NOT DESIRE TO JOIN (SIMPLY) A COMMUNITY OF MERCHANDISE; IT MUST LEAD TO A

POLITICAL COMMUNITY."

6. OREJA NOTED THAT SPANISH PRIMIN SUAREZ WILL VISIT EC CAPITALS THIS FALL TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR SPAIN'S EC APPLICATION.

7. SIMONET, WHO HAD REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD AND OTHER FRENCH OFFICIALS DURING VISIT TO PARIS THE PREVIOUS DAY, CHOSE TO ANSWER A REPORTER'S REQUEST TO OREJA FOR COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS EARLIER THIS WEEK BY CHIRAC AND MARCHAIS HOSTILE TO THE SPANISH APPLICATION. SIMONET SAID IT

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09061 02 OF 02 291901Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 09061

IS LEGITIMATE FOR ANY POLITICAL LEADER IN EUROPE TO DEFEND WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE HIS OWN AND HIS CONSTITUENTS' INTERESTS. HOWEVER, ANYONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF A "EUROPEAN" CANNOT REJECT AN EC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FROM ANY DEMOCRATIC EUROPEAN COUNTRY. SIMONET CONTINUED THAT ONLY TWO EC MEMBER STATES (READ FRANCE AND ITALY) HAD ANY THEORETICAL REASON TO FEAR DOMESTIC POLITICAL "TURBULENCE" FROM EC ENLARGEMENT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN ONE (I.E., FRANCE) THE SPANISH APPLICATION COULD BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE PARTICULAR RELEVANCE BECAUSE OF THE UPCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT NONE OF THE NINE IN FACT HAS ANYTHING TO FEAR FROM COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT, SINCE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING "SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED....TO AMELIORATE CONFLICT."

8. OREJA TOLD THE PRESS HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN OR WHETHER SPAIN WILL JOIN NATO. HE SAID THAT SINCE THERE IS NO DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSENSUS ON THIS ISSUE, A CORTES

DEBATE WILL BE NECESSARY. THE GOS WILL DECIDE HOW TO
PROCEED FOLLOWING THAT DEBATE. HINTON

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